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FROM: WHSR

TO: BREMER FOR SEC. KISSINGER  
RODMAN FOR GEN SCOWCROFT  
INFO: DECAIR FOR RON ZIEGLER &  
JERRY WARREN

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## Nixon Reassures NATO Allies as He Heads for Moscow

BY ROBERT C. TOTH

Times Staff Writer

BRUSSELS — President Nixon prepared to leave today for his summit meeting with Soviet leaders in Moscow after having assured his Atlantic partners here that he would make no agreements with the Kremlin that would sacrifice Western Europe's interests.

Whatever agreements the President does make during his talks with Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev, they are not expected to include any new pact on the limitation of strategic weapons. This was emphasized Wednesday by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who told a news conference that the Soviet Union was "nearly ready to deploy MIRVs" (multi-warhead nuclear missiles) and that no interim agreement could be expected to prevent this.

A major effort will be made, however, to achieve agreement with the Soviet leadership on a phased-out ban on underground nuclear tests.

The underground test ban talks between Mr. Nixon and Brezhnev "must settle the level of the threshold"—that is, the size of the blast that would be permitted—as well as how many explosions would be allowed below the threshold annually and how many above it, Kissinger said. Those exceeding the threshold

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would be for peaceful purposes, he added.

Kissinger's previously expressed view that the limiting of underground tests would substantially lessen the possibility of developing bigger and more accurate MIRVs — and thus lessen the chances of a nuclear attack—were described in Washington Tuesday as a "rhetorical flourish" by Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger.

And these publicly aired differences between the two key Cabinet members were believed by White House officials traveling with the President to make Mr. Nixon's negotiating position more difficult.

The White House officials, angered by Schlesinger's remarks in Washington to a congressional committee, felt that the defense secretary had unnecessarily exposed divisions within the U.S. government at a very awkward time. The incident also reinforced reports that policy disagreements between the two Cabinet members on any new strategic arms, accord with the Soviet Union have descended to the personal level.

Mr. Nixon completed the Brussels phase of his trip Wednesday by signing the new declaration on relations between the 15 members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and meeting collectively and individually with their leaders or foreign ministers afterwards.

NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns said after the signing ceremony that the declaration "sets the aims and ideals of the alliance and sets its course for all the years ahead."

President Nixon said the declaration "lays the groundwork for another quarter-century of alliance solidarity and security," according to presidential Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler.

Mr. Nixon, who spoke to the NATO council in a closed session, lauded the declaration's promise of allied consultations on matters of alliance inter-

This was "not a legally binding obligation," Ziegler quoted Mr. Nixon as saying, "but symbolized the spirit of cooperation which the United States hopes will grow into recognition that no matter of the alliance should consider taking action affecting the alliance without seeking the support and understanding of its members."

Mr. Nixon also outlined generally his agenda items at the Moscow summit. Views will be exchanged on international issues and bilateral relations, he said, and a number of agreements on various areas of cooperation are expected.

Negotiations on arms control would be difficult, Ziegler said Mr. Nixon told the NATO delegates, but there was hope for progress in this area and toward building "a network of East-West trade."

On Schlesinger's comments about Kissinger, Ziegler claimed he had not read them and would not discuss Mr. Nixon's views on which of the two men represented the White House view. But Ziegler did say that "Dr. Kissinger has addressed the negotiations at the summit," indicating support for Kissinger in the matter.

At his news conference, Kissinger said he had "read in newspapers" about the differences he reportedly has with Schlesinger, "but I'm not conscious of the differences when we meet"—suggesting that Schlesinger had never raised them when the two men were face to face.

"The policy fight between Kissinger and Schlesinger over strategic arms actually deals with the number of MIRVs that the Soviet Union and the United States would have on their missiles as a result of any

dispute, Mr. Nixon is not taking to Moscow a unified U.S. government position on the number of MIRVs that would be allowed. Rather, as Kissinger told a Monday press conference, "we have a general agreement on the

philosophy of our approach."

"I do not doubt that if we wanted to translate this philosophy into numbers, that disagreements would emerge. But this is not the issue we now face and, in any event, it is the responsibility of the President, which I don't doubt he

will exercise to resolve (such) disagreements," Kissinger added.

At the same Monday press conference, Kissinger had said that a partial underground test ban would preclude testing of (big (high yield) new weapons for MIRVs.

This would affect future, not present, generations of MIRVs, he said, and "would make more difficult the combination of improved accuracies and larger yields which may again bring about a situation in which a premium will be put on a first strike (surprise attack)."

"And I want to emphasize that many of the proposals that are being made to improve the strategic capability (would also) improve first-strike capability," he went on, and this could endanger stability in nuclear arms.

It happens that Schlesinger has proposed money in the new defense budget for improving the accuracy of U.S. missiles as part of his new strategic concept.

Asked about Kissinger's remarks, Schlesinger told

supplying Israel with arms during the October war, despite Kissinger's relay of presidential wishes. Only after Kissinger got Mr. Nixon to issue a direct order did the massive airlift of arms begin, the article said.

The two men are understood to have discussed the article at length Sunday at a session that was supposed to be devoted to summit preparations on strategic arms issues.

senators in Washington Tuesday that "the first half (was) correct, but the second half was 'rhetorical flourish.' A first-strike capability was not within the grasp of either side," he added.

relationship of the two men followed publication last Sunday of a long article by Marvin and Bernard Kalb which said Schlesinger had dragged his feet on re-